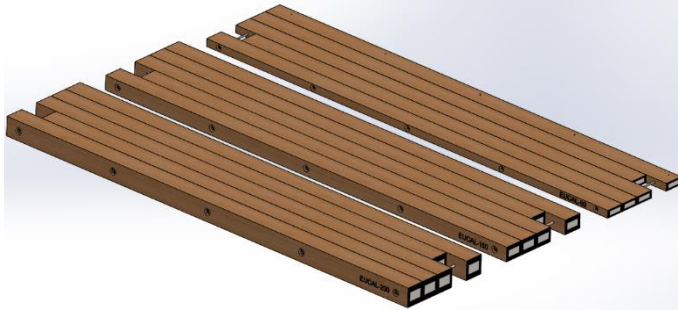


## Eucalyptus Crane Mat Safety & Operating Instructions

### 1.0 General Information of the Eucalyptus Crane Mat



The rendered image on this document is for illustrative purpose only. Actual product may vary.

- Eucalyptus crane mats are made to distribute the weight of heavy machinery and vehicles to the ground, reducing the risk of damage or sinking.
- To ensure optimal performance, it is essential to lay the mats lengthwise in the direction of travel, following manufacturer guidelines for the specific equipment being used.
- The load capacity of the mats will vary depending on the type and condition of the ground, with factors such as soil type, moisture content, and underlying terrain affecting their strength. It's essential to assess ground conditions carefully and select the appropriate mat size and thickness for the job.

### 2.0 Specifications of the Eucalyptus Crane Mat

Mats	Sizes (L x W x H) (mm)	Approx. weight (kg)	Allowed maximum load per mat depending on ground conditions (kg)
EUCAL-150	5000 x 1000 x 150	650	60000
EUCAL-200	5000 x 1000 x 200	850	75000

### 3.0 Safety Information for Eucalyptus Crane Mat

- Contact your local depot for a free ground survey before installing eucalyptus crane mats. The survey will help you assess the suitability of the ground and identify any potential hazards such as underground utilities.
- The contractor is responsible for pre-planning and risk assessment before laying the mats. A site-specific risk assessment must be carried out before installation, and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety gloves and boots, must be worn according to the assessment.
- Eucalyptus crane mats are too heavy for manual handling and require suitable equipment for moving and laying. Careful driving and movement are necessary to prevent damage to the mats, and suitable ramps should be used for a smooth transition from the ground to the mat.
- Before using the mats, a ground and weather condition survey must be carried out in the region where they will be used to assess load capacity and safety. The mats can be used in all weather conditions, but spinning wheels can damage them, so cautious driving and movement are essential at all times.

## 4.0 Instructions and manual guide for installation, removal & cleaning

### 4.1 Installation steps

- Before installation, explore a visual site layout to determine the best orientation for the mats, taking into account any preliminary sketches or measurements. Ensure that the top and side surfaces of the mats are clear of any debris that could interfere with alignment.
- Level the ground to remove any uneven rutting or other obstructions that could affect the performance of the mats.
- Use a lorry mounted crane, telehandler, or forklift with 2 leg chains to handle the mats. The mats can be transported to the desired location and positioned without requiring specialist joining or lifting tools.

Be aware that forklift handling may require very good flat ground conditions for manoeuvring due to the width of the mats. Additionally, the length of the mats can make them unstable during this procedure, so caution is necessary.

As a guide: -

- Ensure that anyone involved with the use of forklift trucks receives adequate training in the safe use and operation/supervision of forklift trucks, including lifting long or irregular loads. This training should emphasize the foreseeable risks and controls that need to be adopted.
- Carry the mats as low as practicable, ensuring that they are centered equidistant on the forks or with the center of gravity placed mid-distance between the forks.
- Carry the mats close to the heel forks with a slight back tilt that is sufficient to stabilize the load.
- Do not raise the load to pass over obstructions such as stored materials or vehicles. If this is necessary, it indicates that the wrong lifting equipment and method have been selected.
- Agree on clear communication between the banksman and the forklift driver before handling the mats to ensure safe and efficient handling.

It is important to secure the load in bundles to prevent shifting during handling. However, if the load is several times longer than the fork width, it should not be clamped or secured to the forks. This is because dynamic forces (such as rocking or twisting) can be transmitted from the load into the fork carriage, increasing the likelihood of the machine overturning. Additionally, securing a load in this manner may cause hidden damage by inducing stress in the forks, carriage, and boom or mast.

- A minimum of two team members should be assigned to aligning and positioning the mats during installation.
- The mats should be laid next to one another with no gaps between them to form a strong and secure platform, depending on the area to be utilized and the ground surface.
- Applying pressure to the mats can help level slightly uneven areas during installation.

**Weather conditions can be unpredictable, especially during the night, with little or no warning. It is important to always check the weather forecast before beginning any installation or use of the mats.**

### 4.2 Removal of the Eucalyptus Crane Mat

To remove Eucalyptus Crane Mats, they should be lifted in the opposite direction in which they were laid to free the next mat for removal.

It is important to note that ground conditions, such as suction, can increase the force required to lift the mats.

Proper equipment and lifting techniques should be used to ensure safe and efficient removal of the mats.

#### **4.3 Cleaning, storage, snow/ice removal**

- To clean debris or snow off Eucalyptus Crane Mats, metal blades or excavator buckets must not be used as they can damage the surface of the mats.
- A powered pressure washer can be used to clean the Eucalyptus Crane Mats effectively.
- In case of heavy snowfall or snow/ ice, cleaning the Eucalyptus Crane Mats with a brush and hand shovel is recommended.
- Snow ploughs with rubber or plastic strips fitted to avoid damage to the surface of the roadway can be used to clean long roadways.
- When storing Eucalyptus Crane Mats, they should be stacked on flat and level ground to avoid deformation of the mats.

#### **4.3.1 Storage of the mats whilst on site and at depots**

- When not in use, Eucalyptus Crane Mats should be stored on a flat and level surface to prevent warping or distortion.
- Do not stack mats too high as this can lead to warping or distortion.
- Mats should be stored away from direct sunlight and in a dry location to prevent splitting or cracking.
- To avoid damage to the mats, they should be stored away from machinery or equipment that could cause harm.
- Regular inspections should be carried out during storage to ensure there is no damage to the mats. Any damaged mats should be immediately removed from service.
- Proper storage will prolong the lifespan of the mats and ensure they are ready for the next job.

**Eucalyptus Crane Mats should not be used to bridge large holes or gaps, as they are not designed for this purpose.**

**Eucalyptus Crane Mats are ideal for use with rubber-tyred or rubber-tracked vehicles but may not be suitable for other types of vehicles.**

**Marwood Group always recommends that a thorough site survey and risk assessment be conducted, including consideration of loading and ground conditions, before using Eucalyptus Crane Mats. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the end user to ensure that the mats are appropriate for their intended use.**

**Marwood Group Ltd now provides an installation service for Eucalyptus Crane Mats.**

**Any damages incurred while using the mats are chargeable and the responsibility of the user**